

MAY 2, 2021



Children's Message

BELOVED • EASTER 5 • YEAR B

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 8:26-40 • Psalm 22:25-31 • 1 John 4:7-21 • John 15:1-8

Select one of these options to create a children's message to fit kids' interests and gifts and your congregation's size and sanctuary features. You can finish your time together with the prayer.

READ THE STORY

Place a bookmark on page 510 in the Whirl Story Bible. Read the story "A Letter about God's Love." What kind of expressions do the people listening to the letter have? Do you ever read letters aloud in church? How are people loving each other on the last page of the story?

ENTER THE FIRST READING

The Acts text is all about baptism. Gather around the baptismal font. **What do we need for baptism? . . . Water, right?** Pour some water in the font. **God's word, yes?** Bring the Whirl Story Bible or the Whirl NRSV along. **God's love? . . . Yes! God's love is always present wherever we are. When we are baptized, we are called children of God—because that is what we are!**

ENTER THE GOSPEL

Hold hands together and make yourselves branches off the Jesus vine. You might hold on to the processional cross, the baptismal font, or the altar as the location of the main vine. Holding on to each other, spread in and among the community in different branches, always connected to Jesus the vine. Our strength and source of love comes from Jesus!

SHARE THE STORY

It's not Valentine's Day, but as far as God is concerned, Easter is the season of love. Hand out paper hearts and stickers, and crayons or markers to decorate them. Ask children to distribute the hearts during communion (you might have a bread station, a wine station, and a heart station), or mail them to homebound members.

WONDER ABOUT THE SEASON

What is new in the Easter Garden this week? A grapevine perhaps, winding through the flowers? Talk a little about vines. Wonder how they grow, how far they can stretch, etc. What kinds of things grow on a vine? (Grapes, flowers, peas, etc.) Wonder why Jesus would call himself a vine. Wonder why he would call us branches.

SEE THE SEASON

What new glimpse of white or gold can be found in the worship space this week? Perhaps gold hearts—there is lots about love in the texts this week! Or maybe small white scrolls tied with gold ribbons bringing encouraging words to the believers in your congregation. A simple message of “God is love!” or “Love God and each other!” would be perfect. Hide these surprises in plain sight and have a treasure hunt.

PRAYER

Connect together like a long vine through and around the Easter Garden or congregation. **God of love and grace, we give you thanks for things that grow—vines and kids, love and our church. Make us into sturdy branches. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

